

CLAIMS APPENDIX

1. (Previously Presented) A computer system comprising:
 - a processor;
 - a memory coupled to the processor, the memory storing a pre-selected input characteristic;
 - a stored password;
 - instructions, during a POST procedure when security is enabled, causing the computer system to enter a mode non-responsive to inputs except the pre-selected input characteristic;
 - instructions causing a system boot or reboot not to be halted during a POST procedure, by an unauthorized user, by adding a timeout to the password;
 - instructions causing the processor to compare a first input entered by the user to the pre-selected input characteristic;
 - instructions causing the processor to ignore an input during a power-on self test procedure unless the first input matches the pre-selected input characteristic;
 - instructions causing the processor to prompt a user of the computer system to enter a password when the first input matches the pre-selected input characteristic;
 - in response to a password entry, the processor ignores an input other than the pre-selected input characteristic if:
 - a) the password is not entered within a pre-specified time period after the prompt; and
 - b) the password is entered within the pre-specified time period, but there is no match with the stored password; and
 - in response to a password entry, the processor processes other inputs in addition to the pre-selected input characteristic if:
 - a) the password is entered within the pre-specified time period and matches the stored password.
2. (Cancelled).
3. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 1 wherein:
 - the first input corresponds to a keystroke on a keyboard.
4. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 3 wherein:

the keystroke corresponds to pressing an F2 key.

5. (Original) The computer system of claim 1 wherein:
the processing of inputs other than the first input enables the user to access a system setup procedure.
6. (Original) The computer system of claim 1 wherein:
the processing of inputs other than the first input enables the user to request boot functions.
7. (Original) The computer system of claim 1 wherein:
the processing of inputs other than the first input enables the user to reboot the computer system.
8. (Original) The computer system of claim 1 wherein:
the processing of inputs other than the first input enables the user to switch off a power supply of the computer system.
9. (Original) The computer system of claim 1 wherein:
the processing of inputs other than the first input enables the user to access an Option Read Only Memory utility.
10. (Original) The computer system of claim 1 wherein:
the processing of inputs other than the first input enables the user to halt a power-on self test function.
11. (Original) The computer system of claim 1 wherein:
the processing of inputs other than the first input enables the user to omit a power-on self test function.
12. (Previously Presented) A method of operating a computer system comprising:
ignoring all inputs from an input/output device during a power-on self test procedure except a pre-specified input;
upon detection of the pre-specified input, prompting a user for a password;
causing the computer system to enter a mode non-responsive to inputs, except the pre-specified input, during a POST procedure when security is enabled;

causing a system boot or reboot not to be halted during a POST procedure, by an unauthorized user, by adding a timeout to the password;

in response to a password entry, the processor ignoring an input other than the pre-selected input characteristic if:

a) the password is not entered within a pre-specified time period after the prompt; and

b) the password is entered within the pre-specified time period, but there is no match with the stored password; and

in response to a password entry, the processor processing other inputs in addition to the pre-selected input characteristic if:

a) the password is entered within the pre-specified time period and matches the stored password.

13. (Cancelled).
14. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein:
the pre-specified input is generated by a keystroke on a keyboard.
15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein:
the keystroke is a pressing of an F2 key.
16. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein:
the processing gives a user access to a system setup procedure.
17. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein:
the processing gives a user an ability to request boot functions.
18. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein:
the processing gives a user an ability to reboot the computer system.
19. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein:
the processing gives a user an ability to switch off a power supply of the computer system.
20. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein:

the processing gives a user an ability to access an Option Read Only Memory utility.

21. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein:
the processing gives a user an ability to halt a power-on self test function.
22. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein:
the processing gives a user an ability to omit a power-on self test function.
23. (Previously Presented) A computer program product comprising a storage medium storing data and instructions operable to:
mask all inputs from an input/output device during a power-on self test procedure, except at least one input that corresponds to predetermined data;
upon reception of an input that corresponds to the predetermined data, transmit a prompt for a password;
cause the computer system to enter a mode non-responsive to inputs, except the at least one input, during a POST procedure when security is enabled;
cause a system boot or reboot not to be halted during a POST procedure, by an unauthorized user, by adding a timeout to the password;
in response to a password entry, cause the processor to ignore an input other than the pre-selected input characteristic if:
a) the password is not entered within a pre-specified time period after the prompt; and
b) the password is entered within the pre-specified time period, but there is no match with the stored password; and
in response to a password entry, cause the processor to process other inputs in addition to the pre-selected input characteristic if:
a) the password is entered within the pre-specified time period and matches the stored password.
24. (Original) The computer program product of claim 23 wherein:
the masking masks from a processor the inputs from an input/output device during power-on self test; and

the reception of the input that corresponds to the predetermined data is performed by the processor.

25. (Cancelled).
26. (Original) The computer program product of claim 23 wherein:
the accepting and responding to other inputs enables the user to access a system setup procedure.
27. (Original) The computer program product of claim 23 wherein:
the accepting and responding to other inputs enables the user to request boot functions.
28. (Original) The computer program product of claim 23 wherein:
the accepting and responding to other inputs enables the user to reboot the computer system.
29. (Original) The computer program product of claim 23 wherein:
the accepting and responding to other inputs enables the user to switch off a power supply of the computer system.
30. (Original) The computer program product of claim 23 wherein:
the accepting and responding to other inputs enables the user to access an Option Read Only Memory utility.
31. (Original) The computer program product of claim 23 wherein:
the accepting and responding to other inputs enables the user to halt a power-on self test function.
32. (Original) The computer program product of claim 23 wherein:
the accepting and responding to other inputs enables the user to omit a power-on self test function.